



Youth Ministry Program

"I live, now not I; but Christ lives in me." Gal. 2:20

Purpose:

1. Educate teens about the different lifestyles of all vocations.
2. Challenge teens to picture themselves in all possible vocations.
3. Encourage open and honest discussion about all possible vocations.

Supplies:

1. Items necessary for the icebreaker
2. "Youth When the Church Was Young" article
3. Bible (2 Timothy 3:10-4:8)
4. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (7 if possible)
5. Pens/Pencils
6. Small strips of paper for questions

Activity #1: Icebreaker:

1. Do an icebreaker with your teens that will encourage them to open up and be willing to share with one another.
2. The icebreaker should also link to Virtuous Living.

Activity #2: Back in the Day: How did the Church start?

1. Read the article: "[Youth When the Church Was Young](#)"* about the beginnings of the Catholic Church and the Christian faith. (It would be easier if all the teens had the article, but do not include the last paragraph or comments in their copies.)
2. Discuss the article with your teens
 - a. What are the promises being made to you today?
 - b. Who is making those promises?
 - c. How many of you feel like you are being challenged to live your faith authentically?
 - d. Does this article describe the youth of today in a realistic sense? Do you want to be challenged?
 - e. What are you doing to live your faith authentically?

Activity #3: Bible Study: St. Timothy is Challenged

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8.
2. Discuss with your teens the different promises made by St. Paul to St. Timothy.
3. Discuss the similarities in what St. Paul says about the direction of the culture of that time to the direction of the culture of this time.
4. Challenge the students to think about which group they are following: the path of the religious or the path of the charlatans.
5. Discuss the challenges being presented to St. Timothy.
 - a. Which of the challenges laid before us in this reading is the most difficult for you?
 - b. Which of the challenges are you taking on?
 - c. How can you do better to fulfill the other challenges?

* <http://www.fathersofthechurch.com/2006/06/07/youth-when-the-church-was-young/>



- d. What changes do you see you need to make in your life?

Activity #4: A Quick Study of the Virtues

1. Split the group into 7 smaller groups (it doesn't matter how many are in each small group).
2. Have each group read from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* the teaching about each of the Cardinal and Theological virtues.
 - a. Within their small groups, have them discuss how their virtue would help answer the challenge put forth by St. Paul.
 - b. What are some practical ways we can put these virtues to use in our lives today?

Activity #5: Host a Q & A session with Priest/Religious/Deacon

1. Set up a comfortable environment (**not a lecture format**).
2. Prepare the speaker to talk for a few minutes about his/her life and how the virtues have helped this person to follow his/her vocation in life.
3. Have each teen think of at least two questions to ask about that vocation and two suggestions they have of ways in which that person can better challenge them to be virtuous people.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, Jesus Christ, you have given us a challenge, to live out our lives in the service of your kingdom and yet we are constantly confronted by obstacles. These obstacles come in many forms and temptations that lead us away from the life you ask each of us to live. Yet, they are obstacles you warned us about and ones that you have promised to fight along with us. And so we ask for your continued grace and for the strength to stand up and make decisions that are pleasing to you and that lead us to the virtuous life, the life that will lead us to the ultimate prize of heaven and the glory of your face. We ask this through your name and the intercessions of St. Michael the Archangel, our defender, and Mary, Our Lady of Victory. Amen.

Further Suggestions:

1. During this Year of St. Paul, create a skit or play based on the life of this great missionary. Perform the skit as part of a dinner theater fundraiser.
2. Perform service projects throughout the year that enable the teens to put into use the virtues that you discuss during this week. Make reference to this week's discussion when doing the service project.
3. Utilize the lesson plans from both 2007 and 2008 Vocation Awareness Weeks throughout the year.



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